

# Pronunciation of Los Angeles.

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**EAST HIGHLANDS** Dec. 1.—[To the Editor of The Times,] Southern California has been characterized as a land of diversity, and there is, perhaps, no phase of its diversity more striking than the pronunciation of the name of its chief city. By Americans, other than those of Spanish descent, it is pronounced in at least three distinct ways, no one of which agrees with the Castilian. In order of popularity they are as follows: Loss Ang-guius, Loss An-jullus, Loss-An-nulus. An analysis of the Spanish pronunciation will show the first to be most nearly correct. As nearly as can be stated in English orthography it is Los Ang-hav-lace, the o in Los having the long sound as in hope, the following a being nearly as broad as in far. In each instance the accent is on the second syllable.

It is not the practice of Americans generally to concern themselves with fine distinctions of sound in languages other than their own; indeed, the brogue of the average Americano is a source of much quiet amusement among Spanish-speaking people, whom he addresses in their own tongue.

It is not wise in adopting foreign words into our language to insist upon retaining their original sounds. There is, however, a certain degree of approach thereto which is desirable, and is acceptable to all persons in search of a fair and intelligent compromise. In the case of the name of our metropolis it will be noticed that the first form given above does not differ materially from the Spanish. It retains the g sound and avoids the j—the English sound of which is not found in Castilian. The third form, which omits both, is of a low order and belongs to the tramp dialect, being one of the distinguishing marks of the order, as well as of the sporting fraternity. Its adoption by these classes seems due to the slight saving of exertion effected by omitting the g, and it should be avoided by all industrious and self-respecting people.

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